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Current Literature.

The Earliest Site of Ancient Jerusalem.

One of the difficult questions of biblical geography is the question concerning the earliest site of the city of Jerusalem. Professor George Adam Smith, D.D., LL.D., of the United Free Church College, Glasgow, discusses in the April *Expositor* the earliest evidence for the site of the city. Going back to the period of the Tell el-Amarna tablets, namely, about 1400 B. C., he seeks to discover the exact location of the city in this period of "busy, passionate life at Jerusalem." For eight of these letters are from Abd-Khiba, who was the ruler of Jerusalem by appointment of the king of Egypt.

But on which one of the several hills later occupied by Jerusalem was the city in his day built? Dr. Smith concludes that the city was located upon the ridge to the south of the temple, known as Ophel. The reason for this conclusion is that the city would quite surely be built in the immediate vicinity of a constant water supply, and the Virgin's Well (or Gihon, as it is called in the Old Testament; in the modern Arabic, 'Ain Sitti Miriam) was the only such water supply anywhere upon these ridges. There is good reason to think that this well was known and used as far back as the history of Jerusalem goes. The city then began on Mount Ophel, and in later centuries spread over Mount Moriah and Mount Zion as well.

The Meaning of the Sin-Offering.

Most scholars have long denied the presence of the idea of substitution in connection with the sin-offering of the priestly legislation. The most recent defense of the substitutionary hypothesis is that by Paul Volz in the *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* for 1901. It is in reply to this article that Dr. J. C. Matthes, of Amsterdam, takes up the subject in the first number of the same journal for 1903.

According to the theory of substitution, the guilt and sin of the sacrificer are transferred to the sacrificial victim, and the transfer is made by laying the hands on the head of the animal. Matthes, incidentally, shows that this does not explain the representative character of